



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 368

January Session, 2013



**AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN ADVISORY COUNCIL ON LYME
DISEASE AND OTHER TICK-BORNE DISEASES.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General
Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established an
2 advisory council on Lyme disease and other tick-borne diseases,
3 including, but not limited to, bartonellosis, babesiosis, anaplasmosis
4 and ehrlichiosis, for the purpose of assisting the Commissioner of
5 Public Health in developing best practices for the prevention,
6 diagnosis and treatment of such diseases. The advisory council shall:
7 (1) Review information and guidelines concerning Lyme disease and
8 other tick-borne diseases that have been published by the International
9 Lyme and Associated Disease Society, the Infectious Diseases Society
10 of America, the American Veterinary Medical Association and other
11 national organizations focused on Lyme disease and other tick-borne
12 diseases; (2) review policies and current practices in other states
13 relating to the treatment and diagnosis of Lyme disease and other tick-
14 borne diseases; (3) identify opportunities for coordination among state
15 agencies and between the state and the federal government, local
16 government agencies and private organizations to improve the
17 dissemination of information on best practices to diagnose and treat
18 Lyme disease and other tick-borne diseases; (4) make

19 recommendations to the Commissioner of Public Health concerning
20 the best practices for the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of Lyme
21 disease and other tick-borne diseases; and (5) make recommendations
22 to the Commissioner of Public Health concerning the dissemination of
23 information on Lyme disease and other tick-borne diseases through
24 the Department of Public Health's Internet web site and printed
25 materials published by the department to increase coordination among
26 the state, local government agencies and health care providers in the
27 state.

28 (b) The council shall be comprised of the following members:

29 (1) The Commissioners of Public Health, Agriculture and Energy
30 and Environmental Protection, or said commissioners' designees;

31 (2) The executive director of the Commission on Children, or the
32 executive director's designee;

33 (3) Three members appointed by the speaker of the House of
34 Representatives, one each of whom shall be (A) a physician with not
35 less than five years of recent experience diagnosing and treating Lyme
36 disease and other tick-borne diseases, (B) an ophthalmologist with not
37 less than five years of recent experience treating patients with Lyme
38 disease and other tick-borne diseases, and (C) a representative of the
39 Infectious Diseases Society of America;

40 (4) Three members appointed by the president pro tempore of the
41 Senate, one each of whom shall be (A) a rheumatologist with not less
42 than five years of recent experience treating patients with Lyme
43 disease and other tick-borne diseases, (B) a researcher affiliated with
44 an institution of higher education who has conducted scientific studies
45 concerning the prevention, diagnosis or treatment of Lyme disease or
46 another tick-borne disease, and (C) a veterinarian who has not less
47 than five years of recent experience treating animals with Lyme
48 disease and other tick-borne diseases;

49 (5) Two members appointed by the majority leader of the House of

50 Representatives, one each of whom shall be (A) a representative of an
51 organization focused on the treatment of Lyme disease and other tick-
52 borne diseases, and (B) a person who has been diagnosed with, and is
53 being treated for, Lyme disease or another tick-borne disease;

54 (6) Two members appointed by the majority leader of the Senate,
55 one each of whom shall be (A) a psychologist with not less than five
56 years of recent experience treating patients who have been diagnosed
57 with Lyme disease and other tick-borne diseases, and (B) a person who
58 has been diagnosed with, and is being treated for, Lyme disease or
59 another tick-borne disease;

60 (7) Two members appointed by the minority leader of the House of
61 Representatives, one each of whom shall be (A) a neurologist with not
62 less than five years of recent experience treating patients who have
63 been diagnosed with Lyme disease and other tick-borne diseases, and
64 (B) a representative of the International Lyme and Associated Disease
65 Society; and

66 (8) Two members appointed by the minority leader of the Senate,
67 one each of whom shall be (A) a pediatrician with not less than five
68 years of recent experience treating patients who have been diagnosed
69 with Lyme disease and other tick-borne diseases, and (B) a researcher
70 affiliated with an institution of higher education who has conducted
71 scientific studies concerning the treatment of infectious disease.

72 (c) All appointments to the advisory council shall be made not later
73 than July 31, 2013. Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing
74 authority. Council members shall serve three-year terms.

75 (d) The members shall elect the chairperson of the advisory council
76 from among the members of the advisory council. A majority of the
77 council members shall constitute a quorum. Such chairperson shall
78 schedule the first meeting of the advisory council, which shall be held
79 not later than September 1, 2013. The advisory council shall meet
80 quarterly and at other times upon the call of the chairperson or upon

81 the request of a majority of the council members.

82 (e) Members shall receive no compensation except for
83 reimbursement for necessary expenses incurred in performing their
84 duties.

85 (f) On or before September 1, 2014, and annually thereafter, the
86 advisory council shall report, in accordance with the provisions of
87 section 11-4a of the general statutes, on its activities to the joint
88 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
89 matters relating to public health.

90 (g) On or before January 1, 2015, and annually thereafter, the
91 Commissioner of Public Health shall report to the joint standing
92 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
93 relating to public health concerning funding and expenditures relating
94 to Lyme disease and other tick-borne diseases. Such report shall
95 include, but need not be limited to (1) identification of the amount and
96 source of all funding received by the Department of Public Health
97 during the previous calendar year for activities relating to Lyme
98 disease and other tick-borne diseases, and (2) a description of activities
99 engaged in by the department during the previous calendar year
100 relating to Lyme disease and other tick-borne diseases and the amount
101 expended for each such activity.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In section 1(a), the phrase: "Bartonella, Babesiosis, Anaplasma and Ehrlichia" was changed to "bartonellosis, babesiosis, anaplasmosis and ehrlichiosis", for accuracy; in section 1(a)(3), the phrase "local government agencies or private organizations" was changed to "local government agencies and private organizations", for clarity; in section 1(b), "committee" was changed to "council", for accuracy; and in

section 1 (b)(3) to (b)(8), inclusive, "who shall be" was changed to "of whom shall be", for consistency with the style of the general statutes.

PH *Joint Favorable Subst.*